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## War on Its Last Legs.

War has always been, always is, and always will be cruel, deadly, inhuman, immoral. Sherman never needed to characterize it as he did. It is the quintessence of all destructiveness, vileness, and moral loathsomeness. One knows black from white without argument; so it is with war.

It has often been said, seemingly in genuine seriousness, that war has in recent times been "humanized." But war has never been "humanized"—never can be. Certain concomitants of war have been taken away, as the indiscriminate slaughter of women and children, the killing of prisoners, the use of poisoned weapons, and the like. But the moment the sword is unsheathed or the rifle and cannon lifted to kill and maim, all talk of humanizing death and slaughter—for that is war—ceases. This cannot be too often repeated and emphasized, as, curiously enough, people appear to forget what war really is.

Now, worse than all, it seems that certain features of the present fighting in Europe, with the terrible implements of destruction recently invented, have descended even below the very savagest acts of remotest barbarism. Have men really been converted into princes of devils, if such thing might be conceived possible in a world of intelligence like ours?

The blowing of regiments of men by big guns out of trenches, the driving stark mad of hundreds of soldiers by the terrific cannonading, the deadly tricks of submarines, torpedoes and mines, and above all, the diabolical aircraft, which know no law but lawless death, seem to have reduced war to the lowest possible terms of irrationality and wickedness.

But why say more? The time has fully come when the beastly business should be ended. There are plenty of people to do it, who really desire and mean to do it, if they will only go at it in earnest, steadfastly, and uninterrupted. As soon as the dismal slaughter ceases and men begin again to act as men, let the people cry aloud, *singly and in groups*, to the President and the members of Congress, to governors and legislators, and to those in authority in the other countries, urging that all the important powers enter into an agreement not to go to war again, to reduce their armies and navies by joint treaty to a very small equipment of police, to constitute the international court voted upon in principle by the Second Hague Conference. Let the people of the United States, or any strong section of them, make such an effort, and it would hardly fail of success in due time. The citizens of the warring nations are, for the most part, ready and eager to join the procession. They know, as no contemplative pacifist has ever known, that war has broken down completely and forever and ought never again to be talked of as possible among intelligent, civilized beings.

## Urging Moderation.

The European war will end some time. Then will come the peace negotiations. At the council table, if the present determination of the belligerents persists, there will be the haughty victor and the bruised vanquished; the one will seek to pluck the fruits of his costly triumph, the other to escape the consequences of his evil fortune. There will be plenty of arrogance and raucous pride and abasement. There will, too, be much of self interest, for each nation will, as before the war, strive to secure all it can.

Who will represent the cause of humanity and of progress in this council of self-seekers? Who will seek to secure for mankind the benefits of democracy, anti-